

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCI-06 AID-20 COA-02 INT-08 HEW-08 EB-11

COME-00 AGR-20 NSF-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/ VN: RGRICHMOND: JCM

6/8/73 EXT. 21315

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R 082111 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STATE 111310

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TGEN, EFIS, MILI, BEXP, JA, VS

SUBJ: POSSIBLE DIOXIN CONTAMINATION OF SHRIMP

REFS: A. SAIGON 9808; B. STATE 82846; C. STATE 95690

1. OUR INFORMATION HERE IS THAT SHIPMENT OF 24 TONS OF FROZEN SHRIMP FROM SOUTH VIETNAM IS STILL IMPOUNDED BY GOJ HEALTH OFFICIALS. CAN YOU CONFIRM? IF SO, WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS THAT SHRIMP WILL BE RELEASED IN NEAR FUTURE? WE SHARE JAPANESE CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF A FOOD PRODUCT BUT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO SEE AN INDEFINITE IMPEDIMENT IMPOSED ON VIET- NAM' S MOST RAPIDLY GROWING EXPORT INDUSTRY WITHOUT SOME EXPECTATION THAT TESTING IS BEING CONDUCTED WHICH WOULD PROVIDE DEFINITE ANSWERS WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

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2. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE GOJ OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE JAPANESE ARE CONDUCTING TESTS ON THE IMPOUNDED SHRIMP, WHEN THE TESTS WILL BE COMPLETED, AND WHAT METHODS ARE BEING USED.

3. IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JAPANESE YOU MAY WISH TO MENTION THAT THE U. S. IS CONSIDERING THE INITIATION OF A MEDIUM TERM STUDY OF LEVELS OF DIOXIN CONTAINED ANIMAL TISSUE IN VARIOUS AREAS WHERE HERBICIDES HAVE BEEN USED INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, NEW ZEALAND, TAIWAN, VIET- NAM AS WELL AS JAPAN. WOULD THE JAPANESE BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS AND A CONCURRENT LONGER TERM STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF DIOXIN ON HUMANS? THE FACT IS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DIOXIN, ITS EFFECTS ON HUMANS, OR WHETHER THE NEW METHODS OF MEASURING MINUTE QUANTITIES ARE MEANINGFUL. AT THIS JUNCTURE, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY CAN ONLY SAY THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DIOXIN MAY BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GATHER FROM JAPANESE ON THIS SUBJECT. RUSH

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